

DESCRIPTION

CARD CONNECTOR AND PORTABLE TELEPHONE HAVING THE SAME

[Technical Field]

5 The present invention relates to a card connector and a portable telephone having the same, and more particularly to a card connector suitable for connection of a subscriber identification module (SIM) card and a portable telephone having the same.

[Background Art]

10 Conventionally, as a card connector of this type, a contacting device for an identification card disclosed in, for example, Japanese Patent No. 2,574,710 has been known. Disclosed in Fig. 5 of this patent publication is a contacting device for an identification card having contact regions arranged in two rows (A, B), wherein two sets of contact members 81 and 82 having the same length are arranged in an interdigitated manner, and terminations of the contact members 81 and 82 are disposed on the opposite side. Further, in Fig. 15 6 of the aforementioned patent publication, there is disclosed a contacting device for an identification card having contact regions arranged in two rows (A, B), wherein two sets of contact members 10 and 11 having mutually different lengths are arranged alternately, and terminations of the contact members 10 and 11 are arranged on the same side.

20 However, with the contacting device for an identification card disclosed in the aforementioned Fig. 5, if sliding insertion is assumed, since the terminations of the portions of the contact portions 81 and 82 which come into contact with contacts 1 of the card are mutually reversely

oriented with respect to the card fitting direction in the same way as Fig. 1 of the aforementioned publication, there has been a risk that the front end of the inserted card collides against the contact members when the card is slidingly fitted.

5 In addition, with the contacting device for an identification card disclosed in Fig. 6, even if sliding insertion is assumed, since the terminations of the portions of the contact portions 10 and 11 which come into contact with the contacts 1 of the card are oriented in the same direction
10 in the same way as Fig. 2 of the aforementioned publication, there is no risk that the front end of the card collides against the contact members when the card is fitted. However, since the terminations of the contact portions 10 and 11 are arranged on the same side, soldering with respect to a printed circuit
15 board is performed only on one side, so that there has been a problem in that the printed circuit board cannot be stably fixed.

[Disclosure of the Invention]

20 The invention has been devised to overcome the above-described problems, and its object is to provide a card connector capable of effecting stable fixation to the printed circuit board and of preventing the collision at the time of the fitting of the card, as well as a portable telephone having the same.

25 In accordance with the invention, there is provided a card connector including a base member and two sets of contact members which are provided on the base member and whose one ends serve as joining portions with respect to a circuit board and whose other ends serve as contact portions with respect to a
30 card, characterized in that the joining portions of the two sets of contact members are respectively disposed at mutually

opposite ends of the base member, and that the contact portions of the two sets of contact members have terminations in a card fitting direction. By virtue of this construction, the card connector can be fixed stably to the circuit board at the joining portions, and it is possible to prevent the collision of the front end of the card against the contact portions at the time of the fitting of the card.

[Brief Description of Drawings]

Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) are diagrams illustrating a card connector in accordance with an embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 2(a) and 2(b) are diagrams for explaining the procedure for fitting the card to the card connector in accordance with the embodiment of the invention; and

Fig. 3 is a diagram for explaining a portable telephone having the card connector in accordance with the embodiment of the invention.

[Best Mode for Carrying Out the Present Invention]

Hereafter, a description will be given of an embodiment of the invention with reference to the drawings.

Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) are diagrams illustrating a card connector in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

Here, Fig. 1(a) is a plan view, and Fig. 1(b) is a cross-sectional view.

As shown in Figs. 1(a) and 1(b), a card connector 1 is composed of a plate-like base member 2, two sets of contact members 3 and 4 fixed to the base member 2, and a pair of holding portions 9. The base member 2 has a substantially rectangular planar shape, and its left end side is formed to be wide. In the drawings, a card is loaded by being slid on the card connector 1 from the right-hand side toward the left-hand side. It should

be noted that, in the description that follows, the direction in which the card advances during the loading of the card is assumed to be the forward direction.

The set of three contact members 3 are formed by thin elongated metal pieces, and joining portions 5 which are soldered to a printed circuit board (not shown) are respectively provided at their ends where the card is fitted, while contact portions 7 which come into contact with the contacts of the card are respectively provided at the other ends. Each contact member 3 extends in such a manner as to creep into the interior of the base member 2 from an end face of the base member 2 on the card fitting side thereof and then advance straight. Then, the contact member 3 is exposed from a wall surface of a through hole 10 with a rectangular cross section formed in the base member 2 in correspondence with the contact portion 7. Further, the contact member 3 is bent upward from a substantially central portion in the through hole 10, becomes higher than the obverse surface (upper surface) of the base member 2 and forms a peak 7a, and the contact member 3 is subsequently bent downward to its termination. In other words, the contact portion 7 is bent in a chevron shape and has a termination in the card fitting direction.

Meanwhile, the contact members 4 are formed by thin elongated metal pieces, and joining portions 6 which are soldered to the printed circuit board are respectively provided at their ends away from the card fitting side, while contact portions 8 which come into contact with the contacts of the card are respectively provided at the other ends. Each contact member 4 extends in such a manner as to creep into the interior of the base member 2 from an end face opposite to its card fitting side, and the contact member 4 is bent leftward in terms of its

advancing direction before a through hole 11 with a rectangular cross section formed in the base member 2 in correspondence with the contact portion 8. Then, the contact member 4 advances straight in parallel with the through hole 11, and its direction is reversed after the contact member 4 has gone beyond the through hole 11, and the contact member 4 is exposed from a wall surface of the through hole 11 on the card fitting side thereof.

Further, the contact member 4 is bent upward from a substantially central portion of the interior of the through hole 11, becomes higher than the obverse surface (upper surface) of the base member 2 and forms a peak 8a, and the contact member 4 is subsequently bent downward to its termination. In other words, the contact portion 8 is bent in a chevron shape and has a termination in the card fitting direction. Thus, as the direction of the contact members 4 is reversed, the provision of the joining portions 6 on the side away from the joining portions 5 and the alignment of the direction of the contact portions 8 with the direction of the contact portions 7 are made compatible.

The pair of holding portions 9 are respectively attached to both side ends of a widened portion of the base member 2. The holding portions 9 are formed by bending a thin metal plate, and their one ends are respectively fixed to the side ends of the widened portion. By virtue of their resiliency, the holding portions 9 press from above and hold both sides of a front portion of the card fitted to the card connector 1.

Next, with reference to Figs. 2(a) and 2(b), a description will be given of the procedure of fitting the card.

When the card 21 is fitted to the card connector, a front end (left end in the drawing) of the card 21 is adjusted to the right ends of the holding portions 9, and the card 21 is slid leftward

while passing between the holding members 9 of the base member 2. At this time, the contact portions 7 and 8 of the contact members 3 and 4 are pressed by the lower surface of the card 21, are deflected downward in the through holes 10 and 11, and assume a state of being accommodated in the through holes 10 and 11, respectively, as indicated at the broken lines in the drawing. In addition, both contact portions 7 and 8 become gradually high from the card fitting side, and after forming the peak 8a, they are bent downward up to their terminations, so that a situation does not occur in which the front end of the card 21 collides against the contact portions 7 and 8 and damage the contact portions 7 and 8. It should be noted that a rear end portion of the card 21 is held by, for instance, an inner wall surface of the housing of the portable telephone, as will be described later.

Fig. 3 is a diagram for explaining the portable telephone having the card connector in accordance with the embodiment of the invention. This drawing shows a reverse surface-side housing 31. An opening 32 for attaching a cover-cum-battery is formed in this reverse surface-side housing 31 in such a manner as to extend from a substantially central portion to a lower edge thereof. A printed circuit board 33 of the main body of the portable telephone is exposed in the opening, and the card connector 1 is fixed on it by soldering. Preferably, a projection is formed in advance at a position which opposes the contact portions 7 when the cover-cum-battery is fitted in the opening 32, so as to hold the rear end portion of the card when the card is fitted.

Thus, with the card connector 1 in accordance with the embodiment of the invention, since the joining portions 5 and 6 at both ends of the base member 2 are joined to the printed

